

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A nipple comprising:

5 a stem; and
a base connected to said stem, wherein said base has a
minimum wall thickness of greater than about 0.05 inches.

10 2. The nipple of claim 1, wherein the nipple is non-
vented.

3. The nipple of claim 1, wherein said minimum wall
thickness is greater than about 0.075 inches.

15 4. The nipple of claim 1, wherein said stem has a
proximal end connected to said base, said proximal end
having a first wall thickness, and wherein said first wall
thickness is equal to said minimum wall thickness.

20 5. The nipple of claim 4, wherein said stem has a
distal end with a second wall thickness, and wherein said
second wall thickness is less than said first wall
thickness.

25 6. The nipple of claim 1, wherein said stem has a
proximal end connected to said base, said proximal end
having opposing sides with inwardly concave shapes when
viewed in a front view.

30 7. The nipple of claim 6, wherein said opposing sides
are smoothly concave when viewed in said front view.

8. The nipple of claim 1, wherein said base has an areola region and a bulbous region, said areola region being disposed between said stem and said bulbous region, and wherein said bulbous region has an outwardly convex shape.

5

9. The nipple of claim 8, wherein said areola region has an outwardly convex shape.

10. The nipple of claim 8, wherein said stem has a first surface geometry, wherein said areola region has a second surface geometry, wherein said bulbous region has a third surface geometry, and wherein at least a portion of said second surface geometry is different from at least a portion of said first surface geometry or said third surface geometry.

15

11. An infant feeding assembly comprising:

a bottle having a vent; and

20

a nipple having a stem and a base connected to said stem, said nipple being connected to said bottle, wherein said vent is disposed remote from said nipple, and wherein said base of said nipple has a minimum wall thickness of greater than about 0.05 inches.

25

12. The assembly of claim 11, wherein said nipple is non-vented.

13. The assembly of claim 11, wherein said minimum wall thickness is greater than about 0.075 inches.

30

14. The assembly of claim 11, wherein said bottle has a first end and a second end, said first and second ends

being open, wherein said nipple is connected to said first end, and wherein said vent is connected to said second end.

15 15. The assembly of claim 14, wherein said vent is a removable vent disc.

10 16. The assembly of claim 11, wherein said stem has a proximal end connected to said base, said proximal end having a first wall thickness, and wherein said first wall thickness is equal to said minimum wall thickness.

15 17. The assembly of claim 16, wherein said stem has a distal end with a second wall thickness, and wherein said second wall thickness is less than said first wall thickness.

20 18. The assembly of claim 11, wherein said stem has a proximal end connected to said base, said proximal end having opposing sides with inwardly concave shapes when viewed in a front view.

19. The nipple of claim 18, wherein said opposing sides are smoothly concave when viewed in said front view.

25 20. The assembly of claim 11, wherein said base has an areola region and a bulbous region, said areola region being disposed between said stem and said bulbous region, and wherein said bulbous region has an outwardly convex shape.

30 21. The assembly of claim 20, wherein said areola region has an outwardly convex shape.

22. The assembly of claim 20, wherein said stem has a first surface geometry, wherein said areola region has a second surface geometry, wherein said bulbous region has a third surface geometry, and wherein at least a portion of
5 said second surface geometry is different from at least a portion of said first surface geometry or said third surface geometry.

23. The assembly of claim 11, wherein said bottle has
10 a first end with a first opening, said first opening being substantially disposed in a first plane, wherein said bottle has a second end with a second opening, said second opening being substantially disposed in a second plane, and wherein said first and second planes intersect.

15 24. An infant feeding assembly comprising:

a bottle having a first end and a second end, said first end being open;

20 a nipple connected to said first end; and

a hood, wherein said hood is selectively engageable with both of said first end and said second end.

25 25. The assembly of claim 24, wherein said second end is open, wherein said bottle has a nipple ring that is removably connected to said first end for connecting said nipple to said bottle, wherein said bottle has a bottom cap that is connected to said second end, wherein said hood has an inner surface having a retaining member, and wherein said
30 retaining member selectively engages said hood with both of said nipple ring and said bottom cap.

26. The assembly of claim 25, wherein said retaining member is a plurality of projections extending inwardly from said inner surface, and wherein pairs of said plurality of projections are diametrically opposed along said inner surface.

27. The assembly of claim 24, further comprising a first vent and a second vent, wherein said second end of said bottle is vented by said first vent, and wherein said hood is vented by said second vent thereby providing fluid communication between said bottle and said atmosphere when said hood is engaged with said second end.

28. The assembly of claim 27, wherein said first vent is a removable vent disc.

29. The assembly of claim 27, wherein said second vent is at least one air hole disposed through said hood.

30. The assembly of claim 24, wherein said nipple has a stem and a base, wherein said base has an areola region and a bulbous region, said areola region being disposed between said stem and said bulbous region, and wherein said bulbous region has an outwardly convex shape.

31. The assembly of claim 30, wherein said areola region has an outwardly convex shape.

32. The assembly of claim 30, wherein said stem has a first surface geometry, wherein said areola region has a second surface geometry, wherein said bulbous region has a third surface geometry, and wherein at least a portion of said second surface geometry is different from at least a

portion of said first surface geometry or said third surface geometry.

33. The assembly of claim 24, wherein said first end
5 has a first opening substantially disposed in a first plane,
wherein said second end has a second opening substantially
disposed in a second plane, and wherein said first and
second planes intersect.

10

15

20